

By Irene Lubinsky (University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada)

I find the submission of *T. Soot-Ryen* concerning designation of type-species in *Yoldia* Möller, 1842 and *Portlandia* Mörch, 1857, most timely, important and correct.

There is a pressing need for a stable nomenclatorial and systematic arrangement within these two genera for the following reasons:

- (a) the study of the marine Arctic fauna is rapidly progressing and the confusion originating from the present state within the genus *Yoldia sens. lat.* arises now more often than previously.
- (b) "*Nucula arctica*" Gray, 1824, a poorly described species, has been assigned by various authors to 6 genera (*Nucula* Lam. 1799, *Arca* Linn. 1758, *Leda* Schumacher, 1817, *Nuculana* Link 1807, *Yoldia* Möller 1842, *Portlandia* Mörch, 1857) and given different specific names. Therefore the synonymy involved is voluminous but necessary.

This state of systematics of *Yoldia sens. lat.* has troubled North American systematists for quite a long time (see discussion in Whiteaves, 1901, p. 127). The genus *Portlandia* has been regarded by many N. American malacologists both as a synonym of *Yoldia* and as its subgenus (Gould (A.), 1870 : 156; MacGinnitie (N.), 1959 : 151).

Recently sufficient material has been accumulated for re-evaluation of the genera *Yoldia* and *Portlandia* and designation of type-species. We hope the arrangement offered by Soot-Ryen will satisfy malacologists on this Continent. In the European literature, including Russian since 1930, the genus *Portlandia* is widely used.

REFERENCES

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COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED SUPPRESSION OF *PROCYON* *BRACHYURUS* AND *PROCYON OBSCURUS* WIEGMANN, 1837. (see volume 21, pages 318-320)

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The petition as presented leaves no acceptable rationale for rejection, by even the most conservative application of the Code (assuming that article 23b may be regarded as radical), for no useful service could possibly be rendered by admission now or later of the Wiegmann names to full candidacy for validity. Replacement of well-established names by arbitrary fixation of *nomina dubia* that have never been used as valid names is inexcusable and directly contrary to the spirit of the Code. Furthermore the Wiegmann names—*brachyurus* and *obscurus*—are clear-cut *nomina oblita*, not having been used as valid names (i.e., "senior synonyms") at least for the past 100 years (fide Dr. Charles A. Long, pers. comm.); therefore they are not to be accepted now as senior synonyms without sanction of the Commission. I strongly urge that sanction not be granted, and that the petition presented by Long be approved in its entirety.